



Citation

to accompany the award of the

Joint Meritorious Unit Award

to the

Headquarters Combined Task Force Operation Northern Watch

The members of Headquarters Combined Task Force Operation NORTHERN WATCH, Incirlik, Turkey, distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious achievement from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2000. During this period, the Headquarters Combined Task Force Operation NORTHERN WATCH produced decisive, positive, and enduring results in enforcement of the Northern Iraq No-Fly Zone. This multi-Service force successfully prohibited aerial incursions in the Area of Responsibility by Iraqi forces and deterred aggressive and inhumane actions by the forces of the Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein against the Kurdish people. Their presence helped contain his destabilizing development of weapons of mass destruction and expansionist actions against neighboring countries. In conducting over 7,000 combat sorties, surface-to-air missiles, anti-aircraft, and munitions storage areas were destroyed. In addition to the operational success in enforcing UN Resolutions, huge strides towards improving diplomatic relations between the United States and Turkey were made. Through their initiative and hard work, the task force accomplished feats never before accomplished; working closely with Turkish Customs ensured 100 percent clearance in critical equipment and munitions, ensuring a seamless rotation for over 40 separate units. By their exemplary performance of duty, the members of the Headquarters Combined Task Force Operation NORTHERN WATCH have brought great credit upon themselves, their Service, and the Department of Defense.

Given under my hand this 14th day of March 2001

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Henry H. Shelton".

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff